

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Raymark Superfund Site Community Update

EPA Superfund Community Involvement

November 2008

This community update provides you with information on the activities ongoing at the Raymark Superfund site in Stratford, CT.



The Stratford Crossings retail center now operates above the protective engineered cap at the site of the former Raymark facility on East Main Street.

Early in 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced to the Stratford community that the agency was delaying the issuance of a proposed cleanup plan for a group of 24 residential, commercial, state, and municipal properties that contain Raymark waste. EPA had developed and evaluated a range of cleanup options that included capping properties in place, excavation with out-of-town disposal, and excavation with in-town consolidation. While EPA and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) support excavation of waste from a broad range of properties with in-town consolidation at two large former Raymark disposal sites (former Raybestos ball field on Frog Pond Lane; Short Beach Park / Stratford Landfill on Dorne Drive), Stratford's elected officials and some citizens have clearly stated their opposition to in-town waste consolidation and their preference for out-of-town disposal.

In late July, EPA Regional Administrator, Bob Varney, and Connecticut DEP Commissioner, Gina McCarthy, met in Stratford with representatives of Save Stratford, former members of the Raymark Advisory Committee, and local elected state and town officials in an effort to find common ground on potential cleanup options to address the remaining Raymark waste locations in Stratford.

As a result of the meeting, the group, now called the Raymark Superfund Team, agreed

to convene a series of weekly meetings with the intent of reaching consensus as described in the following Mission Statement:

We will work as a team to re-examine information available on the remaining Raymark cleanup challenges and develop both short term and long term strategies. The team will identify one or more options for short-term cleanup efforts utilizing currently available funds to address the most significant risks throughout the site, within the context of a comprehensive, longer-term cleanup strategy that builds on past efforts and maximizes opportunities for land reuse and the leveraging of possible additional federal, state, and private funds. The team will work to reach a consensus and present its strategy in a written document within 90 days.

Members of the public may attend and observe these weekly meetings which are being held at the Stratford Health Department, typically on Monday or Tuesday each week (check with the Stratford Health Department or EPA to confirm specific meeting dates and location). Meeting agenda topics have been selected to allow for a more thorough review and understanding of the issues identified by both the EPA and CTDEP and the Stratford community and to provide an opportunity for participants to attain a thorough understanding of the complex technical, legal, regulatory, and financial constraints relative to the development of feasible cleanup alternatives. Meetings topics have included the following:

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Where do I get information about the Raymark Site as well as general Superfund information?

Information is available in the site repository in the reference section of the Stratford Public Library at 2203 Main Street. This repository contains general materials about EPA's Superfund program, Superfund laws, and many volumes of Raymark specific reports and data.

There is additional information about the Raymark Superfund Site on the internet:

Stratford Health Department pages of the Town of Stratford website:

www.townofstratford.com/raymark.shtm

EPA New England website for Raymark-specific information and past Raymark Bulletins:

www.epa.gov/region01/superfund/sites/raymark/bulletins.htm

EPA Headquarters Superfund website includes information about the clean-up process, technologies, risk assessment, laws and regulations, and other Superfund resources:

www.epa.gov/superfund/index.htm

- Superfund process and funding
- nature and extent of contamination at all Raymark waste locations throughout Stratford
- cleanup actions to date
- evaluation of human health and ecological risk from Raymark contamination
- key laws and regulations related to Superfund
- future reuse and redevelopment options for contaminated properties
- cleanup alternatives and estimated costs for long-term remedies
- community health and safety plans, including air monitoring, air borne risk
- Raymark Advisory Committee Recommendations

The current schedule calls for the Raymark Superfund Team to issue its recommended strategy by the end of November 2008, with outreach to the wider community to continue in 2009.

If I have a concern or want more information, whom do I contact?

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EPA to post warning signs

One immediate concern that has been raised at the Raymark Superfund Team meetings is the lack of appropriate postings or warning signs at the various Raymark waste locations in town. EPA has agreed to begin posting signs in the near future in consultation with CTDEP and property owners to warn citizens of potential short-term exposures to Raymark waste until the locations can be more fully addressed.



For more information please visit:

www.epa.gov/region01/superfund/sites/raymark